

## Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

AID-05 /059 W

----- 086507

R 080520Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE 3400

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMIPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2566

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON 07 MAR 75 FROM CAN THO RPT TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: TERRITORIAL SECURITY IN MR4

REF: CAN THO 0078

1. ON 25 FEBRUARY MR4 COMMANDER, MG NAM, HELD A MEETING FOR THE 16 DELTA PROVINCE CHIEFS THAT WAS ATTENDED BY LTG HON, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND COL HA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. AMONG SUBJECTS COVERED WERE THE RESULTS OF THE "SPRING SPECIAL ATTACK PLAN FOR 1975", AIMED AT RECOVERING ABANDONED AND OVERRUN VILLAGES AND HAMLETS. THE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS ORIGINALLY TARGETED IN THIS PLAN WERE SELECTED FROM NOVEMBER HES REPORTS. SUBSEQUENTLY, AN EFFORT HAS BEEN  
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MADE TO INCLUDE AREAS LOST TO VC DURING DECEMBER

VC/NVA OFFENSIVE. THE FOLLOWING SYNOPSIS REPRESENTS THE GVN VIEWS OF THE SITUATION AS OF END JANUARY. ASSESSMENT IS BASED ON REPORTS BY THE VILLAGE COORDINATING COMMITTEES AND TALLIES GENERALLY WITH OUR OWN JUDGMENT.

2. ABANDONED VILLAGES: THE PLAN CALLED FOR 40 TARGET VILLAGES TO BE REOCCUPIED AND THE VILLAGE COORDINATING COMMITTEES AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO BE REESTABLISHED WITHIN VILLAGE BOUNDARIES. DURING JANUARY, THE GVN WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ONLY 5 VILLAGES, BUT WAS FORCED TO ABANDON 18 OTHERS. THUS THE NUMBER OF ABANDONED VILLAGES, AND THE GOAL, HAS RISEN TO 53 OF 807 IN MR4.

3. ABANDONED HAMLETS: THE PLAN ALSO TARGETED 38 HAMLETS RATED "V" ON THE NOVEMBER HES. DURING JANUARY NONE OF THESE HAMLETS WERE REOCCUPIED AND AN ADDITIONAL 442 HAMLETS WERE LOST TO THE ENEMY. THUS THE GOAL IS NOW 480 HAMLETS OF TOTAL 4341 IN MR4.

4. COMMENT: THIS CANDID ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY SITUATION IS RESULT OF MG NAM'S INSISTANCE ON ACCURATE REPORTING. PICTURE PAINTED MAY BE DISTASTEFUL TO THOSE USED TO ROSE-TINTED VIEW PRESENTED IN PAST. HOWEVER, EFFECTIVE PLANNING TO COMBAT DETERIORATION CAN ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN ON BASIS APPRECIATION OF SITUATION AS IT REALLY IS.

5. IMPROVEMENT IN ARVN OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SINCE NAM'S ARRIVAL AT MR4 IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT, E.G., RECENT SUCCESSFUL INTERDICTION OF MAJOR INFILTRATION ROUTE 1C IN KIEN GIANG. COMMAND ATTENTION IS ALSO BEING FOCUSED ON BADLY DEBILITATED RF/PF. THIS INCLUDES PROBLEM OF DECLINING NUMBERS OF COMBATANTS IN UNITS AND IN-EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENTS. IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP IS ALSO RECEIVING GREAT EMPHASIS WITH NOTICABLE EFFECT ON TROOP AND STAFF MORALE.  
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MCNAMARA UNQUOTE  
LEHMANN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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